

**Freedom of Information Request CRN00195692 - Mayor Rees Tbilisi trip**

**Responded by 28/11/2018 Request received:**

*Dear Bristol City Council,*

*I wish to know the following information regarding Marvin Rees' Tbilisi, Georgia trip.*

*The full itinerary and diary of the trip.*

*Copies of any minutes and notes taken.*

*Who paid for travel, accommodation and expenses? How much did this cost? Please break this down by invoice.*

*Who else from Bristol City Council and/or the Labour Party went on the trip?*

*Who paid for their travel, accommodation and expenses (including any second and third parties). Please break this down by invoice.*

*Any and all other funding by second and third parties. Please break this down by invoice.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*Frank Church*

mailto: [request-529618-60184f5e@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-529618-60184f5e@whatdotheyknow.com)

**Response:**

Dear Mr Church,

Please find below our response to your request for the following information.

1. An itinerary for the trip.
2. Minutes: No detailed minutes are taken of the meetings but the key purpose, actions and outcomes are stated here:
  - Business Conference jointly organised by Tbilisi Municipal, Bristol Guild of Guardians and British Embassy provided an opportunity to understand the businesses environment and business opportunities. Speakers included: Georgian Government Minister for Trade, Tbilisi Mayor, Tbilisi City Council head of Econ Dev, British Ambassador, Georgian Business leaders and head of BP in Georgia.
  - Profile raising for Bristol among potential business partners through the business conference and press conference attended by all seven national tv channels and five radio stations plus Georgian and English language print media journalists.

- Business meetings with key Georgian business networks, British Ambassador, Director of Bristol Chambers of Commerce. Looking at opportunities for Bristol and South West companies in the Georgian market as well as showcasing investment opportunities for Georgia investors.
  - Unveiling of the new “Bristol Room” at the British Embassy in Tbilisi.
  - Rugby, night time economy, police,
  - Delivered the official reciprocal visit as Bristol hosted a Tbilisi City Council four person delegation in early October to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the twinning.
3. Funding: Council funded costs are included in the table below. Other costs that were **externally funded** include:
- a) Hotel – Tbilisi City Council funded 2 rooms for 2 nights for Mayor and International Officer
  - b) Hotel – Tbilisi Bristol Association funded 1 room for 2 nights for International Officer who stayed on for working programme.
  - c) Car to Gatwick Airport from Bristol funded by Bristol Tbilisi Association.
  - d) All daytime meals during the visit and opening night reception dinner (buffet)
4. Council’s Costs: please see table below.
5. Mayor was accompanied by an International Officer to increase the value of the trip by facilitate the programme while the Mayor was there, and follow up meetings.

Mayor was also accompanied by James Durie, Director of Bristol Chamber of Commerce and Initiative. Bristol’s Guild of Guardians was also in Tbilisi at the same time co-organising the business conference.

## ITINERARY

### MAYOR REES VISIT TO TBILISI FOR 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY PROGRAMME OCTOBER 2018

| DINNER  | MORNING | AFTERNOON   | EVENING                                      |
|---------|---------|---|--|
| Airport |         | 1730 Arrive at UWE Business School<br>18.00 Depart for Gatwick driven by colleague from UWE and accompanied by BCC Officer. | 22.55 Depart for Tbilisi on Georgian Airways |

|            |  |   |   |
|------------|--|---|---|
| Thur<br>11 | <p>06.35 Arrival at Tbilisi International Airport on A90752 - Georgian Airways met by Tbilisi City Council representative. Transfer to the Rooms Hotel Tbilisi</p> <p>11.20 Meet with Tbilisi International Relations Team</p> | <p>13.00 Round table and business lunch with the Georgian business networks at the British Embassy With Ambassador McKenzie-Smith</p> <p>14.30 Depart Embassy for City Hall</p> <p>15.00 Meeting with Mayor of Tbilisi and British Ambassador</p> <p>16.00 Return to Hotel</p> <p>17.30 Depart Hotel for Chateau Mukhrani</p> | <p>18:00 Attend dinner at Chateau Mukhrani with Bristol Guild of Guardians, and other invited guests and hosted by TBC Bank</p> |
| Fri 12     | <p>09.40 Depart Hotel for Business Conference</p> <p>10.00 Business Conference at TBC Bank Headquarters focused on doing business with Georgia</p>   | <p>16.00 Conference ends</p>  | <p>Reception hosted by the British Ambassador at the embassy. Unveiling of Plaque for new Bristol Room at the Embassy</p>       |
| Sat 13     | <p>04.00 Depart for airport</p> <p>06.30 Departure on KLM 3109</p>   | <p>13.15 Arrival at BRS on KLM 1051</p>   |   |

### Total Bristol City Council Costs for Tbilisi trip, Oct 2018

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| <b>Item</b>   | <b>Cost Foreign currency<br/>GEL</b> | <b>Cost Sterling £</b> |
|---|--------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Taxi to UWE departure point for officer               |                                      | 21.00                  |
| Food at Gatwick airport for Mayor on Wed 10 Oct       |                                      | 5.98                   |
| Car to Gatwick airport - contribution to petrol       |                                      | 30.00                  |
| Flight Gatwick - Tbilisi - Bristol for Mayor          |                                      | 422.92                 |
| Flight Gatwick - Tbilisi - Gatwick for Officer        |                                      | 393.66                 |
| Taxi in Tbilisi                                       | 5.00                                 | 1.30                   |
| Refreshments for meeting                              | 36.58                                | 10.00                  |
| Taxi from Bristol airport to home for Mayor           |                                      | 31.00                  |
| Taxi from Bristol Coach station to home for Officer   |                                      | 12.00                  |
| Coach ticket from GTWK airport to Bristol for officer |                                      | 23.00                  |
| Coach ticket from GTWK airport to Bristol for officer |                                      | 23.00                  |